

United States Airmail Coil Perfins

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I thought it might be fun, and easy, to put together a synoptic collection of perfinned U.S. airs C1-100. It has been fun but not easy. Naturally there will always be blank spaces for the four zeppelins. Years ago, I recall reading about PRR perfins in the 1930 set of three. I have seen a copy of the 65c value with E31 perfin type. I know of no reports of perfinned C18's, however. Slim are the chances of filling those spaces!

Though I still lack about 30 issues, the zepps aside, nine of the missing items are coils including one tagged coil. The only airmail coil that I own is a mint favor strip of three with 'HAR | RIS | JH' punched into C82's. After examining all my perfins on cover including vast amounts of personal types, I did not find any airmail coils. Probably those using personal devices purchased them after 1973 and punched only current issues. A few other collectors also are missing examples of air coils. Articles and checklists have been published for perfinned C1-C6 and for C11, the beacon air issue, but air-mail coils seem to have been neglected. I wonder if it is because they don't exist?

What follows is a list of the Scott numbered coils, in case anyone wishes to report evidence of perfins in these issues.

| | | | |
|-----|----------|------|-----------------|
| 5¢ | C37 | 1948 | 33 million + |
| 6¢ | C41 | 1949 | 260 million + |
| 7¢ | C52 | 1958 | 157 + million + |
| 7¢ | C61 | 1960 | 87 + million + |
| 8¢ | C65 | 1962 | ? |
| 8¢ | C65a tag | 1965 | ? |
| 10¢ | C73 | 1968 | ? |
| 11¢ | C82 | 1971 | ? |
| 13¢ | C83 | 1973 | ? |

(? = no figures given in 1996 Scott U.S. Specialized Catalog.)

One would think that after 25 years of airmail coil production, some commercial perfins should exist and would have been reported.

Even without the zepps, it may be impossible to complete my synoptic airmail perfin collection. I suppose that it is time to move on to another perfin interest?